JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

nese Christian's torture revealed

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Gao Zhisheng, a Christian human rights attorney in China, has been missing for more than 100 days, and a new video describes the torture he endured previously at the hands of government officials.

The video, released by China Aid and Voice of the Martyrs, is a dramatic remactment of Gao's account of his torture, which also is available in written form at www.freegao.com. The video form at www.freegao.com. The video can be viewed at

form at www.freegao.com. The video can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR h6DmMUn5A. In an attempt to accurately portray Gao's torture, the video includes violence and language that is not appropriate for everyone.

Four U.S. Senators have gotten involved in the case, calling for the Chinese government to release Gao. In a May 14 letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao, Sens. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), Chris Dodd (D-Conn.), Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) and Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) said they fear Gao's life "may be in grave danger."

"Mr. Gao's disappearance appears to be a violation of both Chinese and international law," the senators wrote. "We urge your government to inform the concerned public of his whereabouts, to guarantee Mr. Gao's right to be free from arbitrary detention, and to secure his release."

Gao, a 2008 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and a Chinese army veteran, was voted one of China's top 10 lawyers in 2001 by a Chinese ministry of justice publication. In 2007 he sent an open letter to the U.S. Congress detailing widespread human rights abuses in China.

Following the letter, Gao was kidnapped and held by public security officers for more than 50 days, being physically and verbally tortured repeatedly, as recounted in the video.

"He was told that he would be killed if he told anyone about what happened," the senators wrote in the letter. "Mr. Gao

if he told anyone about what happened," the senators wrote in the letter. "Mr. Gao was last seen on February 4, 2009 at a relative's home, where more than 10 public security officers and others forcibly removed him from bed and whisked him away to an unknown location, Mr. Gao's whereabouts are still unknown.



GRAPHIC ABUSE — The depiction of the torture of Christian human rights lawyer Gasheng at the hands of Chinese authorities is recreated in realistic fashion in a video curity being distributed across the Internet. In an attempt to accurately portray Gao's torture video includes violence and language that is not appropriate for everyone. (BP photo)

In addition to his wife, Geng He, Gao has a 16-year-old daughter and five-year-old son. Gao's family members also have been subject to harassment from the Chinese government, and in March they were granted political asylum in the United States.

United States.

Two organizations, China Aid and Voice of the Martyrs, are urging concerned citizens to join the more than 70,000 people who have signed a petition for Gao's release, which will be presented to the Chinese Embassy in Washington.

They hope the petition will make the Chinese government aware that the world is watching the situation and does not approve of the inhumane treatment Gao has undergone.

Gao has undergone.

"Freedom is one of the most important spiritual factors of a human being. In addition to physical needs, man also has his equally important spiritual needs, which is a blessing given by God," Gao wrote in his 2007 letter to Congress.

2007 letter to Congress. "However, the Chinese

people are ruthlessly deprived of this blessing. In China, freedom is not only a luxury item, but it also is regarded as a dangerous item by the dictators. The suppression of people's longing for freedom is against human nature and against heaven-ly principles," Gao wrote. In a speech on the U.S. Senate floor in April,

Dorgan, chairman of the Congressional-Executive

THE RESIDENCE WINDOWS WITH THE PARTY.

Commission on China, urged action toward Gao's release.

toward Gao's release.

"There are many today that languish in dark cells, dark cells of Chinese prisons, just because they spoke out to defend the rights of others," Dorgan said. "None have done so more than Mr. Gao, who is a noted and celebrated human rights lawyer, who has lost his law office, lost his license, been imprisoned now twice, has now disappeared into the prison system, where tor-

peared into the prison system, where tortured before, we expect is being tortured again, and we need to put a stop to it.

"We need to find a way to convince the Chinese government to tell us what has happened to Mr. Gao; what have they done with him, how do they justify it and when, when, when will they tell us that they will when, when will they tell us that they will release this man to be with his family and begin to accord people like Mr. Gao, and others who stand up for the rights of others, the same human rights that we would expect them to be given?" Dorgan said.

Gao's wife wrote an open letter to Congress in April, urging them to use their international influence to reduce persecution in China.

"Honorable members of the U.S. Congress, please help me support my hus-band, lawyer Gao Zhisheng, so that the evil forces will know that there is resistance against persecution; so that the millions of Chinese suffering this despotic rule will know that the United States is concerned about their human rights situation, and will not give up," she wrote.

"My husband would be more resolute because of this, the Chinese people would feel inspired because of this, and China and the world would eventually transform because of this."

Gallup: American majority now pro-life

United States describes itself as pro-life on the abortion issue, marking a substantial change in public opinion in the last year, according to a new Gailup Poll.

The survey results released May 15 showed 51% of adults said they are pro-life, while 42% identified themselves as prochoice. It is the first time a majority of Americans have called themselves pro-life since Gallup began asking the question in 1995. Until now, no poll had shown more than 46% saying they are pro-life.

The public's notable change on the abor-

WASHINGTON (BP) - A majority in the tion issue came during a period in which Americans selected Barack Obama, a sup-porter of unlimited abortion rights during his legislative career, as president and increased the number of pro-choice mem-bers in Congress in November's election.

"It is possible that, through his abortion poli-cies, Obama has pushed the public's under-standing of what it means to be pro-choice slightly to the left, politically," said Gallup ana-lyst Lydia Sand. "While Democrats may support that, as they generally support everything Obama is doing as president, it may be driving others in the opposite direction."



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK A 'fitting testimonial of respect'

On Monday we will observe Memorial Day 2009, a nationwide tribute to America's war dead that had its beginnings in Mississippi when the people of Columbus paused to remember and decorate local military graves in the years after the end of the Civil War.

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, the Tree of Liberty has since been watered with the blood of many more brave men and women who have given their lives in defense of this country in some of the most hornific conflagra-

They were someone's son, daughter, father, mother, or beloved friend, and the world has been poorer because of their loss. We are free today because of their

sacrifices.

As our Armed So vices strugge in our stead even today against the forces of tyranny and political enslavement that are so often grounded in religious fanaticism and would take away our freedoms — not the least of which would be our freedom of worship — it is therefore fitting to follow the example of our forebears and pause to remember the people involved in securing those freedoms.

Problem is, Memorial Day for many Americans has become just another day to take off work and immerse ourselves in some self-absorbed activity while giving little thought to the day's significance. It shouldn't be that way, so perhaps a brief history of this important observance is in order.

According to The History Channel web site, Memorial Day was originally known

Lyangelicals today have media capabilities that would boggle the mind of the first century church. We spend millions every year on our message. Jesus spoke a simple sentence, "Come follow Me ..." and rough necks like Peter gave up a career path for the Kingdom call. Yet, with all of our current media savvy, churches everywhere are struggling to reach men. It's no secret that Jesus' very own congregations can't seem to find a message that attracts men.

As I've worked with congregations seeking to construct men's ministries, I've discovered that churches often end up creating what I've come to call the "marginal man."

The average guy in the prevents in

The average guy in the pew has a thought process in which he realizes that he's not

called to preach. Furthermore, he realizes that

he's not necessarily a good Bible teacher, and they won't let him sing in the choir. He's

been on a few committees,

but that wasn't enough. Left

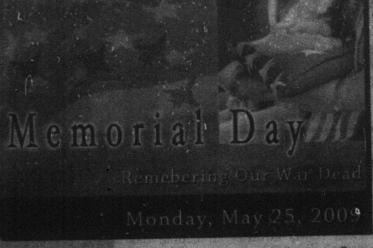
with those options, he starts

to see ministry, by the way

the church defines it, as a for-

Does this fit the mentality of

all churches? No, yet my expe-



as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants

helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in

the cemetery.
This 1868 celebration was

This 1368 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken parce in the three years since the Civil War.

In our spoiled, materialistic culture of today, we have forgotten too much of our history. We take too lightly the sacrifices of our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen — and their families. Too many of us are too far removed

airmen — and their families. Too many of us are too far removed from such sacrifices ourselves to really appreciate what they have done, and are doing, for us.

Super Bowl Sunday is a bigger event now. Whiny basketball stars are our heroes. A prime tee time is more important that attending a Memorial Day ceremony. Slathering barbeque sauce on the ribs weighing down our fancy grills is a higher priority than stopping for a few minutes to recall our war dead.

Christians, of all people, should be ashamed to act that way, if not for the sacrifices of these men and women throughout the history of our country, we would have no freedom to worship God in openness and without fear. We would be severely limited in our ability to evangelize the world (if we could do so at all). We would be defenseless and persecuted everywhere, as detailed elsewhere in this very issue of The Baptist Record.

War is not God's best for us, and He surely grieves every loss caused by mankind's ultimate inhumanity. As long as there is evil in this world, though, there will undoubtedly be armed conflict, and people will die to defend our freedoms.

May we never take them for granted.

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GUEST OPINION:



Men and ministry

By Jason Cruise, founder Outdoor Ministries Network Thompson Station, Tn.

rience has found that it's far more the mindset that rules the day rather than the exception.

Given these options, the marginal man quietly sits on the boundaries of church life. It's not that he doesn't love God, it's that he's bored. He feels left out because he does not necessarily embrace the light mold of what congregations are, and are not.

congregations are, and are not, willing to give the title of "ministry position."

Consider Jeremy Harrill, a wildlife officer in North Carolina and a hard-working man of God at Cornerstone Church in Cleveland N.C. Church in Cleveland, N.C. Knowing that many men in his congregation loved to hunt and fish, Harrill started a Bible study specifically for outdoors-men. The content, the stories,

the brotherhood, all centered around that niche of men who would willingly skip church

would willingly skip church during hunting season.

Harrill's small group study was well received, and it wasn't long until he had another wild idea. He knew that many of these men were barely connected to church life, but if he could find just the right opportunity, he believed that God could push these men to go on a mission trip.

Harrill took his outdoorsmen to Alaska with the mission

men to Alaska with the mission of sharing the Gospel via a DVD produced through the Alaska Baptist Convention called, Life:Alaska Harrill led his men to share the Gospel, using the DVD concept, with fisherman lining the banks during the summer Salmon runs.

The rest is history, still in the making. Jeremy Harrill understands that if you form a ministry around a man's passion, you don't have to motivate him. All you have to do is give him permission to serve God through his personality, not in spite of it.

Churches today could reach men in droves if they would start with where men are, instead of where they want them to be. Marginal men are not necessarily con-

want them to be. Marginal men are not necessarily content to be marginal. Whether it's through golf, disaster relief, motorcycles, home repair, coaching, business networking, or hunting and fishing, marginal men will turn into hardcore Jesus followers if you can teach them how to turn their passion into a minturn their passion into a min-istry with a Kingdom agenda. Shout the message that

your church embraces testosterone, and your mes-sage will not only be heard, it will be received by men.

Cruise's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Visit his websites at www.outdoorministrynetwork.com and www.bethemanministries.com.

THE BAPTIST RECORD

gone conclusion.

May 21, 2009

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Situation gets worse for Pakastani Christians

ISTANBUL (BP) — Christians in Pakistan's Swat

Christians in Pakistan's Swat Valley are bearing the brunt of war, caught between the Taliban and the nation's military as it assaults the stronghold where sharia (Islamic law) is in force.

Nearly 15,000 troops have been deployed in the picturesque Swat Valley in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and neighboring Afghanistan. Troops came after months of peace negotiations collapsed in April between Taliban Islamist insurgents who have imposed sharia in the valhave imposed sharia in the val-ley and the central government. Hundreds of thousands of

Pakistanis have fled the war-ravaged area for fear of a full military assault.

ravaged area for fear of a full military assault.

On May 10, the army ordered residents to flee Swat Valley during a lull in fighting. Aid groups estimate that as many as 1.3 million could be displaced, according to The Guardian newspaper in London.

Christians are particularly vulnerable in the mass exodus. Working as poor day laborers, they occupy the lowest rung of the social ladder and have little money for costly transportation or for stocking up on resources before fleeing.

"Christians are poor, and like in any conflict, the prices of transportation and commodities skyrocket. Some had to go on foot to flee the valley," Ashar Dean, assistant director of communication of the Church of

Dean, assistant director of communication of the Church of
lakistan's Peshawar diocese,
told Compass Direct News, an
organization based in Santa
Ana, Ca., that provides reports
on Christians worldwide who
are persecuted for their faith.

The Tailban had ratcheted up
pressure on Christians, other reli-

pressure on Christians, other religious minorities, and liberal

Muslims in the Swat Valley to live according to Islamic fundamentalist norms. They were forced to grow beards and wear Islamic attire for fear of their safety in an attempt to blend in with the region's Muslim residents.

Many Christians also fled because they had insufficient funds to pay the jizye, a poll tax under sharia paid by non-Muslims for protection if they decline to convert to Islam.

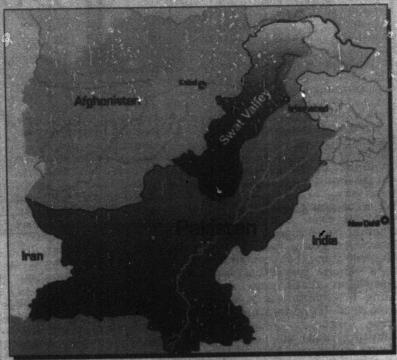
In February the Pakistani overnment ceded control of the Swat Valley to the Taliban, who imposed their version of sharia and established clerical rule over the legal system — but Christians had seen warning signs long before the formal sharia announcement. In the past year the Taliban burned or bombed more than 200 girls' schools in the region, including one that housed a Catholic church.

Religious minorities live in

Religious minorities live in a precarious situation in Muslim-dominated Pakistan. The legal system informally discriminates against non-Muslims, and in recent years Christian villages have been ransacked by Muslim mobs incited by dubious reports that a Koran had been desecrated. The Taliban's attempts to spread out from the Swat Valley into neighboring areas, however, have increased feelings of insecurity among the nation's three million Christians.

"The threat of the Taliban is a hanging sword above the

a hanging sword above the necks of Christians," Sohail Johnson, chief coordinator of Sharing Life Ministry. Pakistan, told Compass Direct. "Christians could be in the situation where they would have to accept Islam or die." A number of Christian fami-



lies affiliated with the Church of Pakistan (a religious body encompassing Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans) are in refugee housing—a church-owned technical school—in Mardan in the NWFP.

The school dismissed its stu-dents for the school year early to make room for the refug Opening its doors to the displaced Christians was necessary due to government inaction toward religious minorities, said Yousaf Benjamin of the National Commission for Justice and Peace.

"The government is giving

"The government is giving protection to Muslims, but the Christians are through waiting for their services," he said.

Similar measures are being employed in hundreds of schools. To provide for the massive influx in refugees, the Pakistan government ended the school year early in districts near the Swat Valley and opened the schools to refugees for temporary housing. Teachers also are assisting in the humanitarian relief effort, Benjamin said. Some Christians have com-

plained of facing discrimination in refugee camps. According to the Christian Today online news site, government relief workers

forbade Christians, Hindus, and

forbade Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs from setting up tents or eating with Muslim refugees.

Christians will not be able to return to the Swat Valley unless the Taliban threat is completely removed, Christian relief groups said. Otherwise, their possessions and property will always be under threat.

"Christians will face terrible persecution if the Taliban is not controlled by the government," Johnson said. "They will easily attack churches, schools and other Christian institutions."

Rehman Malik, Pakistan's

Rehman Malik, Pakistan's interior minister, has said the military operation would con-tinue until the last Taliban fighter had been ousted. Since April 8, government troops have killed an estimated 751 militants among an estimated 5,000 Taliban militants in the Swat Valley.

The government hopes to minimize civilian casualties through precision air strikes and delivering emergency humani-tarian aid.

Pakistan's government has come under harsh national and international criticism for its negotiations with the Taliban and ceding control of the region to the Taliban, fearing the Taliban could seize control of the nation's nuclear weapons.



BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND **RIGHT Now!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Fetal farms coming?

WASHINGTON (BP) — British couples may soon be able to create embryos to use as body repair kits for their other children and themselves. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is slated to consider in July a plan to permit in vitro fertilization (IVF) not just for reproductive purposes but for the storage of human embryos that can be used to grow replacement body parts and organs or to treat diseases, according to the Daily Mail. Under such a policy, parents could have stem cells harvested from their own children while they are in an embryonic state in order to help their born children and themselves medically, though it would come at the expense of those embryos. As a result, doctors could produce customized therapies for the parents and siblings of these embryos, the Daily Mail reported April 25. Extracting stem cells from an embryo results in the destruction of the days-old human being. Bioethics specialist Wesley Smith said "it is easy to predict" what HFEA will decide, since "this is Brave New Britain." "This is figurative cannibalism, treating nascent human life as if it urative cannibalism, treating nascent human life as if it were a prize cattle herd or copper mine," Smith wrote on his weblog, "and it won't stop with embryos. Once the principle is accepted that living human beings can be objectified as a product, there is no way that enterprise will be limited to the earliest humans... [F]etal farming is on the table and the already born weak and vulnerable are being looked upon by some as sources of organs and subjects for medical experimentation."

Looking back

Broadman & Holman Publishers is producing a new Bible transla-tion expected to be on bookshelves by 2004. The new translation will be known as the Holman Christian Standard Bible.

Arson is suspected in the burning of the portable chapel that housed Bayside Church, a mission of First Church, Bay St. Louis. The trailer, owned by Gulf Coast Association, was completely destroyed. The church is meeting in a damaged Sunday School trailer. Robert Cooper is pastor.

The first statewide Sunbeam Workshop in the Southern Baptist Convention is conducted at Camp Garaywa near Clinton May 5 – 6, according to Edwina Robinson, state WMU executive secretary. LHNR LERMRDXMR SX LEXZCEL DXM LER UXM-MXY: DXM LER UXMMXY PEHTT LHNR LEXZCEL DXM LER LEVSCP XD VLPRTD. PZDDVWRSL ZSLY LER AHK VP LER RBVT LERMRXD.

ULLERY PVQ: LEVMLK-DXZM

Clue: Z = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Haggai Two: Five

> Nova Scotia - June 10-27, 2009 Routing - I-55 to Jackson, I-20 East

miss. Country - June 30-July 8, 2009 Routing - I-55 to Jackson, I-20 East

Alaska - Aug. 10-Sep. 7, 2009

Routing - 1-55 to Jackson, 1-20 East

New England Fall Foliage

Sep. 30-Oct. 12, 2009

Routing - 1-55 through Jackson

DISCOVERY

Recently I made a discovery, No, it was not a discovery of some cure for a disease or even a discovery of some new easy or faster way to do something. In fact, it was a discovery that I was not even trying to discover, but for some wonderful reason God brought it to my understanding. It was a discovery brought on by the Heavenly Father.

Let me tell you shout it to

Let me tell you about it. As I grew up, my years were spent in a preacher's home, so on Sunday morning there was not an issue as to what we were going to do or not do. We were going to church. It was not even a matter of whether you felt good or not. You were going to church. The only thing that seemed to be a remote possibility for discussion about your not going to church was if you were dead. If you had a slight fever, forget it. Occasional vomiting did not matter. Severe injury, you have to be somewhere, so we were loading up and going to church.

When I got grown and God called me to preach, there was no question as to what I was going to be doing on Sunday. I was going to be in church, usually preaching the Word of God. It is not that I did not want to, because I did.I enjoyed being at church and Let me tell you about it. As

want to, because I did.I enjoyed being at church and looked forward to preaching to my congregation. Through the years, I had a haunting question and uneasiness in the background of my heart virtually every Sunday morning. I wondered if anybody was going to be there.

wondered if anybody was going to be there.

People do not have to come to church. They can get up every Sunday morning and contemplate whether or not they want to go, whether they feel like going, or whether the weather is appropriate for them to go. Sometimes I would get up, the weather would be



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

bad, maybe cold, and maybe rainy, and I would wonder if anybody was going to come. On other days I would get up, and it would be drop-dead gorgeous, and I would wonder if anyone was going to come. Some of our folks had boats, others loved to play golf, and others enjoyed traveling to see friends or family. Would they come? Sunday after Sunday, decade after decade, they did, and I would wonder why.

A little over 10 years ago when I became executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist

when I became executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, every once in a while there was a Sunday that I did not have responsibilities to preach or obligations to be involved in the church setting for a celebration of something. I would be at home, and I faced a decision and the opportunity of whether or not I was going to go to my own church and enjoy the fellowship, worship, and experience with God and His people. At those times, I would time and again find a great throb in my heart, a draw to my heart and life that compelled me with great delight and anticipation to get to church on Sunday. While I really was not looking for it I discovered what it is that is happening in people's hearts and lives that makes the week-to-week Sunday meeting with God so important.

I found out how much I needed to be there. I looked forward with great delight to experiencing what I found when I got there. I discovered

from my own personal experience and satisfaction that what I had been a part of all of my life was a fantastic thing that God did when He arranged for us to meet with Him on Sunday. Even though there are times when I am not required to be there, I cannot avoid the inner pressure that says to me, "You do not want to miss this!" Indeed, I do not.

I have been to church when the crowd was down but the service was great. I have been there when the spirit seemed to be a little lackluster, but it was just what I needed. I have been there when the pastor did not think he did a superb job of preaching and I completely disagreed. It is amazing, for I cannot recall one time when I

went to church and wished

went to church and wished that I had not gone.

My discovery had to do with one of the marvels of that commandment that says, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8). There is a day to meet with God, and He retreshes and renews the invitation every week. It is a day of purpose, a renews the invitation every week. It is a day of purpose, a day of renewal, and a day of new designs for life. I discovered how good it has been through the years and how good it is even when you do not even have to do it. God has a blessing for you. If you do not go, He will miss you, but I think you will miss Him much more. I discovered why folks are in church week to week, and I was certainly blessed with treasures divine. If you have not found this blessing, why don't you search this Sunday and discover what people through the ages have found — that great blessings await you, week after week.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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THE BAPTIST RECORD

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

May 21, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

CONFERENCE



Crossgates BC, Brandon, MS

Thursday, July 16, 1:30 p.m. -Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m.

Basic Workshops Offered:

- · English as a Second Language (with an EFL component)
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include topics such as: Web sites, citizenship, Biblical material, cultures and religions of internationals living in Mississippi, prison literacy ministry.

Highlight

Special 50th Anniversary Celebration of Literacy Missions in North America

Cost: \$10 registration, \$19 cost of manual (for Basic workshops only) \$7 per meal (if applicable)

Registration: on Web site or contact Paula Smith or Karen Redditt (800-748-1651, ext. 316 / psmith@mbcb.org / kredditt@mbcb.org) in the State WMU Office.

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT III May 25 & 26 at FBC, Biloxi

Preacher: Bill Baker,

Former pastor at FBC, Clinton

Choirs:

I. FBC, Hattiesburg

II. Cottage Hills, Mobile, Ala.

The Gathering I: John Yates, Enterprise, Ala. The Gathering II: First Love, Metro Area

Day 1: 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Day 2: 8:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

For more information, contact Discipleship & Family Ministry, 601-292-3284, 1-800-748-1651, dbrashier@mbcb.org

ou are Invited to FOCUS ON KINGDOM ESSENTIALS

Refresh is a church leadership training conference for pastors, bi-vocation ministers, church staff leaders and valunteer workers who are interested in sharpening skills and finding spiritual refreshment. The one-day format preserves your time and maximizes your opportunity to choose courses of interest. Look over the shortlist that follows and get detailed information from your Associational Missions Director, or on the Web at www.mbcb.org -Click on the REFRESH link. Cost: \$10 which will include lunch. Preregistration is not required.

Temple Baptist Church/West Campus

5220 Highway 11, Hattiesburg Saturday, May 30, 2009 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.





Church Growth & Missions Speakers and Topics

T.W. Hunt The Personal and Spiritual Growth of a Leader

Lavon Gray Ministers of Music **Tommy King**

Balancing a Bi-Vocational Ministry and LifeStyle **Tony Merida**

The Nuts and Bolts of Preparing for Sunday Steve Stone Knowing and Daing

the Will of God

Tammy Anderson...Family Mission Projects
Peggy Brock...Leading a Child to Faith in Christ
Steve Davis...Deacons in Ministry
Rick Howerton...Small Group Ministry
Mike McCool...The Innovative Church
George Ross...The Need for Planting Churches in a
Churched Culture
Rick Sayger...Building Bridges to Reach the Unchurched in Your Community
Wade Steelman...Mentoring Church Leaders and
Initiating a Mentoring Launch
Cindy Townsend...Refresh Your Women's Ministry
Gaston Romero...VIDA DEVOTIONAL

Age-Group Ministry

Ann Edwards...Current Trends in Preschool Ministry
Angle Boydstun...Current Trends in Children's Ministry
Rick Morton...Current Trends in Youth Ministry Jason Hayes...Current Trends in Young Adult Ministry
Alan Raughton...Current Trends for Reaching Boomers and Busters

HOTEL INFORMATION . Microtel Inn . (601) 450-1592

105 Westover Drive, Hattiesburg, MS • 39402 Ask for Group Code Title: REFRESH Conference (Hotel is located just west of 159 at Exit 65 on the north side of Highway 98)

Sponsored by: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Temple Baptist Church, LifeWay Christian Resources and Your Local Association.

Bivo/Small Church Here's Hope Workshop

Pastor and Wife Workshop

Workshop Leader: Claude V. King

Ministers Wives Sessions Leader: Marion Duncan

April 14-15 Auburn BC, Tupelo

For more information, call (601) 292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651 (toll-free in state).







Stuart Hall Jake Gulledge

Pastor

Marriage

PROVIDING A REVIEW OF YEAR ONE (2008 CONTENT) AND A PRESENTATION OF YEAR TWO (NEW. ADDITIONAL CONTENT)



Dr. Edwin Jenkins is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Athens, Ala. He and his wife, Joan, have three— children: Edwin earned a D.Min. at Southwestern Baptist Theological

During the time that Dr. Jenkins served as the director of Leadership and Church Growth for the Alabama

Missions, he and his wife became aware of the significant need for ministers to have help in making their marriages better. In response to this need, they developed "The Miracle of Marriage" interactive materials.

Code For two nights lodging and six meals:

Lodging & Meals\$308 per couple Register through MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development, PO Box 550, Jackson MS 39295-0530, or call 601-292-5305. There is no conference fee.

No child care or accommodations for children provided.

For more information, call (601) 292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651 [toll-free in state].



fulfilledi a missions event

October 8-10, 2009

rst Baptist Church, Kissimmee





WESTER, \$27488



JULY 13-17, 2009 MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE



Birmingham, AL

WORSHIP LEADER
Dave Hunt

Nashville, TN

SUPER SUMMER 2009
COSTS AND REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Student and Adult Leaders \$250

NO REGISTRATIONS OR REFUNDS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 3

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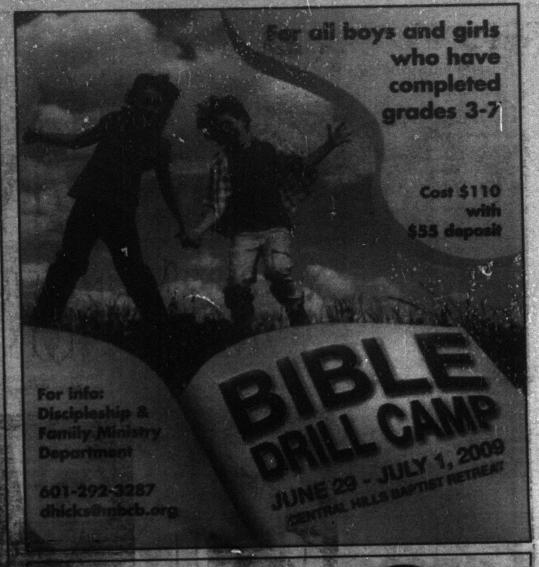
For a registration CD Packet, contact René Edwards at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284, or E-mail redwards@mbcb.org. You can also download forms from our Web site: mbcb.org or mssupersummer.com

WHEREVER HE LEADS

Colossians 4:2-5

- · God leads us to prayer and thanksgiving (v2)
- · God leads us to share the message of Christ (vs3-4)
- · God leads us to minister and give (v5)

For more information, contact David Michel at (800) 748-1651, ext. 231.



BROCHURE COMING!

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August 18-20, 2009

Featuring: Lana Rose and Dianne Cockrell

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE: You should register by July 24, 2009. There will be a \$5 late fee after July 24, 2009.

For more information, call Kay McDonnell at (601) 292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651 (toll-free in state), or e-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Pray this day for ...

MAY 22-JUNE 4, 2009

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3204 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-100-787-7729 (PRAY)

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him." Is

Isaiah 64.4

Pray for (1) a team from Made RC, Moss Polist, going to Costa Rica, May 24th-30th, as work in construction and participate in children's purisity (2) a team from PBC, Vencleave, going to Ulcaine, May 29 – June 8, for church planting outreach and a children's camp.

Pray for (1) a team from Thirdly BC, Southawers, as they travel to Jamaica, May 30-June 6, tonead in VBS and community center work. (2) a team, from Caleary BC Macon, traveling to Honduras, May 3-June 8. Pray for this team as they minister to orphans.

MEMORIAL DAY

Pray for: (1) the III Senior Adult Retrieu, FBC, Billoxi, 25th-26th (Denill, 12) a team from allecedenia is lityrate, traveling to the Philippines, May 27-June 10th, to lead in VBS and evangelism.

Pray for Camp Staff
Crientation, Garaywa Camp
6. Conference Center. Cintor
Pray for the staff to minister
in the power of the Holy
Spirit. Pray for the campers to
have ears to hear and eyes
to see how much God loves
them and wants them to fol
low Him (WMU).

Pray for the 200 plus Mississippi BSU student senumer missionaries wh will be septing all over the world this summer. Many are on the field how or are preparing to leave shortly.

Pray for Mississippi workers in East Asia as they work with new believers and seek to baptize and disciple them in their new faith. Pray as members of Hermanda IRC travel to Vancouve; Canada, May 27 June 3, to expression (in the yallow BC. They'll be working with a children's weekend event and English as a Second Language classes.

Pray for II Student Week, William Carey University, Hattlesburg, June 3-7 (SS). Pray for these students to develop a worklylew consistent with the Bible and live their lives according to those principles. Pray that they will be examples of Christificenes to their fiellow students.

Pray for: [1] members of Please. Attendent, and Please BC. Mornidan, as they travel to Dominican Republic May 21-28, to work is severagetism and disciplishing [2] a plant of several churches led by Please BC. Betterville, May 23-31, going to Mexico to do medical missions and evengelism.

Pray for [1] a team from Lifepoint Chunch, Senatobia, going to Zimoatove, May 29-June 8. Pray for them as they tribed lead out in Title Loye Wats a other everygetim. (2) a team from FBC, Groundhawen, going to Ecuadox May 29-June 6, ministering to orphe

Pray for: (1) a team from Neuron Williams IIC, traveling to Bulgaria, May 23-June 1, a they pastingsur fregueth from FISC. Receivance, participating in prayerwalling and evangelism among an unreached people group in Senegal, May-June 3.

Pray for the Cartests
Conference for congregational leaders seeking spiritual strength and ruthernment to serve more effectively in the Kingdom of Christ Temple (CG/MS);
[2]| Student Week; William Carey University, Hattiesburg, 30th 3rd (SS).

Concert TOUR

June 10

Laurel, Miss. (601) 763-7571 Salem Heights BC • 5850 Hwy 84 West

June 11 6:30 P.M. Long Beach, Miss. (288) 864-2584
FBC • 300 North Cleveland Avenue

June 12 6:30 P.M. Southaven, Miss. (662) 890-2452 DeSoto Hills BC • 4680 Getwell Road

June 14 11:00 A.M. Clarksdale, Miss. (662) 624-2538 Clarksdale BC • 401 First Street

June 14 6:30 P.M. Houston, Miss. (662) 456-5311 FBC • 201 West Madison Street

June 15 6:30 P.M.

West Point, Miss. (662) 494-4213 FBC • 134 East Broad Street

June 16 6:30 P.M. Jackson, Miss. (601) 949-1900 FBC • 431 North State Street



Sponsored by the

Church Music Department

1.800.748-1651 ext. 266 In Jackson 601-292-3266

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MUSIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FBC, JACKSON, JULY 9-11

Jesus is the Song

CONFERENCE BEGINS AT 12:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY
ENDS AT NOON ON SATURDAY

COST OF CONFERENCE \$30

Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail with registration form to:

Church Music Department, Leadership Conference P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 by July 1, 2009.

For more information, registration forms and motel listings, visit our Web Site at www.mbcb.org and click on Departments/Church Growth/Church Music/Events/Music Leadership Conference. You may also call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 267, or in Jackson, 601-292-3267.

NO CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.

MAY

HOUSE TOPS



1. Mt. Zion Church



2a. Mt. Comfort Church children



2b. Mt. Comfort Church youth



BAPTISTS

- 1. Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln Association, recognizes its Bible drillers, Colton Watson and Conner Crosby.
- 2. Mt. Comfort Church,
 Calhoun Association, recognizes its Bible drillers.
 Shown are children's drillers Patrick Kelly,
 Savannah Smith, and
 Kayde Coleman; and youth drillers Rebekah
 Baker, Benjamin Baker, and Janae Harrelson.
- Philadelphia, recognizes
 Bible driller Sam Lovorn,
 who placed first in the
 State Speed Bible Drills.
 Shown is Lovern and
 Mike Carr.
- 4. Parkway Church,
 Houston, recognizes its
 Bible drillers. Shown are
 the youth drillers and the
 children's drillers.

The Empilet Record P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205



3. Lovorn and Carr



4a. Parkway Church youth



4b. Parkway Church children

SCHOOL BIBLE

- 1. Larue Church, Ocean Springs: June 1 5; 8:30 11:30 a.m.; for children who have completed kindergarten 9th grade; lunch and transportation provided.
- 2. First Church, Glendale: May 31 – June 5; 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.; preschool – 6th grade.
- 3. Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg: June 1 - 5; 9 a.m. - noon; 2nd - 6th grade.
- Academy Church, Tippan County: May 25 – 28; 6 – 8 p.m.
- 5. Bethel Church, Brandon: June 7 - 11; 6 - 8:30 p.m.

BAFFISTRIES
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WATER HEATERS
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IN
TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

- 1. Melody Hanberry received Mississippi College's 2009 Pittman Young Faculty Award. Shown are Alicia Pittman, George Pittman, Hanberry, and Ron 3. Howard.
- 2. Mississippi College alumni will meet at the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville, Ky., June 23, 8 p.m., at the
- Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center. For information, call Ross Aven at (601) 925-3228 or aven@mc.edu.

COLLEGE NEWS

- Mississippi College will have orientation sessions for new students June 19 20 and July 10 11. For more information, contact MC's Office of Enrollment Services at (601) 925-3800.
- A Retirement Reception was held recently at William Carey University for four faculty members whose total years of service equal 81 years. (Left to right) Linda Steele of Hattiesburg, lecturer in education, retires after 10 years; Walter Butler of Seminary, professor of education, served for 15 years; Cloyd Ezell of

Hattiesburg, chair and professor of mathematics, retires after 15 years; Josephine D'Arpa of Hattiesburg, associate professor of music, served for 44 years; and Tommy King, president of WCU pose for pictures during the reception. The retirees received gifts and were honored with a reception in the Lucile Parker Art Gallery.



1. The Pittmans, Hanberry, and Howard



4. William Carey University retirees



1. The McLemores

- Countyline Church, Ovett, has called Johnathan McLemore as paster. Shown are McLemore with his wife Cannie and daughter Abi.
- Macedonia Church, Petal, has called Brian Pippen as student minister. Pippen is an ordained deacon and teaches history at Petal High School. He is shown with his wife, Dawn.
- First Church, Lyman, has called Wayne R. Malone as pastor. Malone has degrees from Excelsior College, Albany, N.Y., Libert, Baptist Seminary, Lynchburg, Va.,
- and has and has studied at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. He is married to Robin Malone and has two children, Kristin and Jason. The church has also called Louis White as minister of music. White comes from Handsboro Church, Gulfport, and is married to Elaine White.
- Straight Bayou Church, Anguilla, has called Tom Metcalf as pastor. Shown are Metcalf, wife Jennifer, and children Griffin, Sara, and Garrett. The Metcalfs are from Millington, Tenn.



4. The Metcalfs

THE WALL DO NOT THE PARTY OF TH REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Antioch Church, Monticello: Homecoming, May 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., fol-lowed by lunch and after-noon singing: Warren Hedgepeth speaker; The Messengers, music. Church, 6.
- Unity Church, Pattison: Homecoming, May 24; services, 10:30 a.m. with business meeting, song service, message, and covered dish lunch; Frank Leggett, speaker; Gloryland, music.
- Friendship Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, May 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., fol-lowed by lunch and after-noon worship 1:15 p.m.; Ronny Robinson, speaker.
- Concord Church, McCall Creek: Homecoming, May 24; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground at 1:15 p.m.; Bruce Crosby, speaker.
- West Shady Grove Church, Wayne County: Homecoming, June 7; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mitchell Smith, speaker.

- Silver City Church, Silver City: 75th anniversary, May 31; services, 10 a.m., includ-ing digging up of the time capsule, lunch, Lord's sup-per, special music, and spe-cial recognitions; Tony Blanchard, pastor.
- New Hope Church, Harmontown: 130th anniversary and home-coming, June 7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by din-ner and music; Second Chance music Chance, music.
- Rock Hill Church, Brandon: Homecoming, May 31; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; David Michel, speaker.
- Calvary Church, Carroll County: Homecoming, May 31; mini-concert, 10:30 a.m., followed by worship and dinner on the pavilion; Billy Little, speaker; Jimmy Hood, music; Bud Vance, pastor.

Visit us online at www.mbcb.org

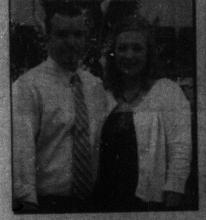
Mission: Dignity. They call it Dignity. We call it a Mission.

Bud, along with Wife Polly, pastored small churches for more than 30 years. When urgent medical needs meant early retirement, Bud and Polly weren't sure how they would make it. Then, they were approved for help from Mission:Dignity.

GuideStone's Mission: Dignity ministry provides critical financial assistance to thousands of retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers or their widows. But we can't do it without your help.



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2. The Pippens

"It's really the difference between eating and not eating; between having medication and not having medication."

- Bud Peters

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Barnabas: The Man Who **Encouraged Others**

Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-28; 11:19-26; 13:14-15, 42-43

By Arthur Story

The world in which we live is The world in which we live is predominantly negative. The TV news, radio programs, newspaper and magazine articles, the content of web pages, and the subject matter of too many personal conversations make this apparent. Most of these focus on what's wrong and discouraging, while few tend to focus on what is good and uplifting.

and uplifting.

Sadly, this tendency isn't limited to the world around us. It is also the trend in the lives of too many churcher, and believers. Think about your most recent conversations with other believers about the church you attend, its various ministries, our nation, etc. How many of them were uplifting and positive, and how many of them were depressing or negative?

depressing or negative?

In a world focused on negative issues, too many believers

have become pes-simistic and are living defeated lives rather than the abundant lives God intends for them. Take a look

intends for them. Take a look around, and you can see discouraged believers every day and everywhere. But, what can we do to help them? We can help them by encouraging them through our words and actions. In particular, we can encourage them by daily living out four actions modeled by Barnabas.

Giving (Acts 4:36-37)

The first action we can take to encourage other believers is to give financially for kingdom purposes. Our text reveals that Barnabas did this very thing. He sold a field and then brought the money to the apostles to be distributed to others according to their needs.

Each of us can encourage other believers by giving of the resources God has entrusted to

other believers by giving of the resources God has entrusted to us. The financial resources we

possess aren't intended fo be used by us to elevate ourselves. God entrusted them to us to be used for His purposes. One of His purposes is for us to meet the needs of other believers. By willingly giving to help other believers, we sustain those who are struggling to meet their daily needs. As a result, these believers don't become discouraged or fail to focus on their

pens today. People that formerly lived evil lives come to know Christ and then find themselves caught between two worlds: the lost and the saved. They no lost and the saved. They no longer fit in the world in which they lived when they were lost, but tragically they aren't being openly received by fellow believers. It's not hard to imagine how such a situation can lead to discouragement. This is when we need to be like

when we need to be like Barnabas and intercede for our new brother/sister in Christ. We need to encourage him/her by being the one that receives him/her and works to connect him/her to other believers.

Discipling (Acts 11:19-26)
The third action we can take to encourage other believers is to disciple them. Barnabas did this when he went to Antioch with Saul and taught the disciples there for a year.

The pressures of this world can toss believers to and fro by focusing them on their emotions, circumstances, etc. When this happens, believers stop handling themselves according to Scripture and return to handling themselves according to the standards of the world. The believer who succumbs to these

pressures or faces them alone and uniformed can become very discouraged. Before this happens, we should take action like Barnabas and encourage other believers by teaching them Scripture and helping them to connect God's Word to how they live daily in a fallen world.

Witnessing sures or faces them alone

(Acts 13:14-15, 42-43)
The fourth action we can take to encourage other believers is to witness. Barnabas and Paul did this in Antioch of Pisidia as they spoke in the synagogue and as they spoke with groups of people after the synagogue had been dismissed. Like Barnabas, we can

Like Barnabas, we can encourage other believers by giving a verbal witness of Jesus Christ. The hearing of the Gospel is an encouragement to any believer as it brings focus and perspective, and as it reminds us all of our responsibility to tell others about Him.

If you want to encourage other believers as Barnabas did, choose to live a life of giving, serving, discipling, and witnessing.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Hope: A Path to Fulfillment

Micah 4:1-4; 5:1-4

By Beth S. Bowman

I was almost thirty when I gave birth to my oldest son, Graham. To say that he was longed for, hope for, prayed for would be an understatement. Grandparents drove in from Mississippi screeching on two wheels with cars looking like they had a head on collision with a Toys-r-us truck. Friends brought casseroles to feed the neighborhood, and the church family supplied us with enough diapers for the birth of septuplets. The baby had arrived. Even though his birth was anticipated by many, it pales in comparison to the waiting for the birth of the Messiah. The Savior would come! For such a long time, many had longed, prayed, cried and hoped for the Savior. In the passage today, Micah gives the people specific details of His coming birth.

Seeking God's Paths
(Micah 4:1-2)
In our last lesson, the
Lord's judgment on Boulerusalem had just been announced. This passage begins with a promise of the ultimate exaltation of Jerusalem, the City of Zion. It speaks of a deep desire to actively seek and live by Cod's truth. Micah pictures the world streaming into Jerusalem to meet the Lord God and walk in His paths. People shall flow into it as the waters of a river flow continually. The prophet predicts that in later days many nations would desire to walk in the ways of God and their testimony will flow out of Zion and the truth of the Gospel will be sent from Jerusalem.

Enjoying Security
(Micah 4:3-4)
The hope of security in these

The hope of security in these verses is predicted to occur dur-

believers don't become discouraged or fail to focus on their kingdom responsibilities. Instead, they're encouraged as they see our faith being lived out before 'em, as their needs are met, and as they remain focused on their responsibility to serve God according to His gifting and calling.

Serving (Acts 9:26-28)

The second action we can take to encourage other believers is to serve them. Barnabas did this when he stepped up to serve Saul. Many believers were skeptical about Saul's conversion and questioned if he was really a disciple, but Barnabas interceded for him and spoke on his behalf.

The situation with Saul wasn't unique to his day. It still haping the reign of the Messiah. When Jesus came, He brought the hope of security and peace that enabled believers to live with confidence and assurance in an uncertain ance in an uncertain world. The reign of the Messiah didn't auto-matically change the hearts of men. Instead,

hearts of men. Instead, their personal choice to trust Jesus for salvation created the change. Why would they continue to need their weapons? The Messiah would teach them a new way to live! The New Living Translation states in verses 3-4 this way, They'll trade in their swords for shovels, their spears for rakes and hoes. Nations will quit fighting each other, quit learning how to kill one another. Each man will sit under his own shade tree, each woman in safety will tend her own garden. God-of-the-Angel-Armies says so, and he means what he says."

Accepting Sin's Consequences (Micah 5:1)

This verse concludes a sec-

This verse concludes a section which begins with 4:9

that specifically foretells the distress of God's people and their coming Labylonian captivity. It also includes the present threat Assyria posed to them. In the previous verses, 4:9-13 shows God's plan for His people includes not only painful discipline but also eventual victory. During this time of discipline, the consequence is that Israel will be humbled by foreign powers and even her judges would be stricken down.

stricken down.
Promise of a Great Future
(Micah 5:2-4)

(Micah 5:2-4)

King David's hometown of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Ephrathah, was the town referred to at the beginning of these verses. This was a small, non-descript town that Micah prophesied from which the ruler of Israel would come. It was one small town of thousands that God chose for the birthplace of the long awaited Messiah. Bethlehem means House of Bread, and later in John 6:36, Bread, and later in John 6:36, Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life. Ephrathah means "fruitfulness" or "abundance." These words were made mani-

fest in the life of our Savior. He is life and joy. Jesus also produced the fruit of the Spirit in abundance. Charles Spurgeon said, "Our poor barren hearts never produced one fruit or flower, till they were watered with the Savior's blood." our bread, our main source of

In verse 2b we read, "His origin is from antiquity, from eternity." (HCSB). Jesus did not begin in Bethlehem, He has been around from the beginning. Revelation 2:13 states, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, "the Beginning and the End. There was never a time that Jesus did not exist.

The woman who gives birth

Jesus did not exist.

The woman who gives birth most probably refers to the Mother of the Messiah in verse three. Afterward, Micah predicts the Messiah will stand and shepherd God's people with strength and majesty. There will be security and peace. These encouraging prophecies conclude with the revelation that the Promised One will extend the Promised One will extend over all the earth.

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The

ptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message asyment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no lest attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise, Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

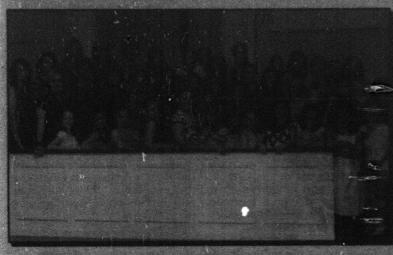
Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staple All news items are subject to editing, and all

photographs are subject to cropping Photographs must depict people. No jund scape-, builting-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The

Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



6. First Church, Bruce



7. Pierce ordination



8. Macedonia Church, Pearl



9. First Church, Shannon



- Leaf River Church, Pineville, will have a piano concert featuring Melissa McNeil Craft and Pat Luscomb May 31, 5:45 p.m., followed by lellowship.
- 2. Four Mile Creek Church, Escatawpa, will host a fam-ily worship service May 24, 9 a.m., featuring Lee Pitts Spooter. For information, call (228) 475-8244.
- Academy Church, Tippah County, will host Paid in Full in concert May 23, 7 p.m.
- Rose Hill Church, Rose Hill, will be hosting the Gospel Echoes during their Fifth Sunday night singing May 31, 6:30 p.m., followed by fellowship and potluck meal.
- Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, had its second annual service of The Nailing Apr. 10, including communion, candlelight service, and fellowship.
- The Girls in Action of First Church, Bruce, had their annual recognition service recently. Shown are the participants.
- Janice Church, Brookyn, ordained Jimmy Pierce as deacon. Shown are Marc Williams, Pierce, Barbara Pierce, and Dewayne Pierce.
- Macedonia Church, Pearl, awarded the Outstanding Prime Timers of the Year award to Pat and Martha Murphy at the church's senior adult day May 3. Shown are Martha Murphy, Becky Bolling, and Pat Murphy.
- 9. First Church, Shannon, held a deacon ordination service Apr. 26. Shown are David Ogg, Kay Ogg, Sarah Ogg, William Ogg, and pastor John Box.
- 10. The youth Sunday School class of Beatline Church, Louisville, enjoyed a day of fellowship at High Delta Safari Park, Delhi, La. Shown are the participants.
- 11. Ladies from Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, recently visited some of the River Road plantation homes near Vacherie, La. Shown are the participants.

- 12. William Carey University students Asiston Windham and Caleb Crabtree received the R.B. Thomas scholarship from Main Street Church, Hattlesburg.
- 13. The first class of bivocational music leaders graduated after completing the required two year course of study at First Church, Greenwood. The class is



10. Beatline Church, Louisville



11. Main Street Church, Hattiesburg



12. Windham and Crabtree



13. Bivocational music leaders class